



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2014



CSH Affiliate

Humanist Solstice Celebration – December 15

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 15.

The old year has rolled around again, and we are celebrating the Winter Solstice in its honor! We'll start with a delicious potluck supper at 7:30 p.m., and follow that up with an important but brief business meeting with election of officers, closed with the annual reading of our late member Lois Woodrow's beloved poem in commemoration of the Earth's axis, "Ode to the Tilt." Everyone is invited to bring items such as books, jewelry, movie DVDs or musical CDs, etc. – things people will enjoy bidding on – for the silent auction, which will continue throughout the evening, as music fills the air. Mickey Koth will bring her folk ensemble. David Schafer at the piano will lead us in singing some seasonal songs. Charlotte Moulyn will play a beautiful cello classic. Last, Mickey and David will join our own Steve "Broadway Bassoonist" Boshi in favorite Leroy Anderson trios. The suspense of the silent auction will bring this grand

Conversations

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 6.

We will watch and discuss a short *New York Times* film, "To Kill a Sparrow." In Afghanistan, thousands of young women have been imprisoned for so-called moral crimes — including running away from unlawful forced marriages. This is one woman's story.

Refreshments will be served.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

DECEMBER 2014

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 6	Humanist Conversations: <i>New York Times</i> film: "To Kill a Sparrow"	2:30 p.m
Mon., 15	Potluck dinner	7:30 p.m
	Annual Business Meeting & Elections, followed by our Winter Solstice Party	8:00 p.m
Sat., 20	Book Group: "Ecotopia" by Ernest Callenbach	2:00 p.m.
Thu., 25	Dinner at Tom & Deidre Kennedy's home in Shelton	4:00 p.m

JANUARY 2015

Sat., 3	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 17	Book Group: "Fighting Back the Right: Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason" by David Niose	2:00 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m
	Main program: PJ Deak - 13 Baktun: tourism, identity and the new millennium of the Mayan calendar. The travel log of a family visiting the western highlands of Guatemala.	8:00 p.m
Sat., 24	A special program featuring David Niose	TBA
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

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evening of merry-making to a joyful end. By all means bring a friend to the celebration on

Monday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden!

The Slate - 2014 Annual Meeting

Come cast your vote Monday, December 15! We will vote on the slate of officers for 2015. Remember, only members may vote, and nominations may be made from the floor.

Proposed January — December 2015 slate of officers:

President – Carol Siddall
Vice President – June Schafer
Treasurer – Carol Podgwaite
Secretary – Richard Siddall

Committee Chairs:

Programs – David Schafer
Membership – Halina Platt
Publicity – Deidre Kennedy
Development – Manny Ratafia
Publications – Richard Siddall
Hospitality – Randy Olear

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Joan Rafford, June Schafer, and Gayle Walter

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Email List

To join, send an email to:
hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org
with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an email to:
hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org
with the subject **unsubscribe**.

Officers

- President June Schafer
(203) 281-6232
president@cthumanist.org
- Vice-President Carol Siddall
- Secretary Deidre Kennedy
- Treasurer Carol Podgwaite

Committee Chairs

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Halina Platt
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Richard Siddall
- Publicity Dan Blinn
- Hospitality Randy Olear

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Thanksgiving "Thank You!"

Thanks to all of you who helped make it a Happy Thanksgiving for 800 needy people in the New Haven area. (You did read that right. The number increased to 800 people by Thanksgiving.) You provided turkeys, pies, and money for necessities; you carved; you delivered dinners. What you did made a difference for others and was greatly appreciated.

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Book Discussion: Ecotopia

The Book Group will next meet on Saturday, December 20 at USNH at 2:00 p.m. For our December book we'll be reading Ernest Callenbach's classic political fiction "Ecotopia." The novel was rejected by many publishers before being released in 1975 and ultimately becoming an underground classic and manifesto of the burgeoning environmental movement. "Ecotopia" tells the story of a not-to-distant future where the Pacific northwest has successfully seceded from an environmentally collapsing United States. William Weston, a reporter at a major newspaper in the U.S., is assigned to visit Ecotopia and report on conditions in the now-unknown region. What he discovers – in Ecotopia and himself – provides the narrative thread of the book. Although praised as an ecologically sustainable vision of living, Humanists will also have much to ponder. Is this a lifestyle that Humanists can and should embrace? Per Fritjof Capra in a review of the book: "Callenbach gives us a vivid, comprehensive, positive vision of an ecologically sustainable world. Essential reading for all who care about the earth's future."

Refreshments will be served

Humanist Dinner, December 25

Tom and Deidre Kennedy have kindly offered to host an early evening dinner at their home in Shelton at 4:00 p.m. Tom & Deidre will provide a meat and a vegetarian entree. If anyone would like to bring something, an appetizer or dessert would be welcome. Dress is casual. This is a chance to get out of the house on a day when most of the country is closed, and spend a few minutes with some like-minded friends. Please RSVP for an address by phone at 203-922-1548.

Friday Dec. 5th – USNH Social Cinema

This Month's Film is "Robin Williams Remembered" (PBS)
This tribute to actor and comedian Robin Williams features one of his last full-length interviews for the *Pioneers of Television* series, including never-before-seen comments on his life and comedic and dramatic work, as well as tributes to Williams by those who knew and worked

with him, and clips from his career.
The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the film at 7:15 p.m. in the Social Hall at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.
Hosted by the USNH Adult Religious Education Committee & Mental Health Awareness Action Group

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to editor@cthumanist.org. We welcome humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry, news items, cartoons, and illustrations.

Please include a SASE to have material returned. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.
The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

MEMBERSHIP		Name(s): _____
! Adult	\$35	Address: _____
! Family	\$50	_____
! Newsletter Only	\$10	Telephone: _____
! Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.		E-Mail Address: _____
! In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to		Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
! Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street,		I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
! Hamden, CT 06517-1321.		Where did you hear about us? _____
		Comments: _____